## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

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## Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A nematic liquid crystal composition comprising

at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 10 to 40% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the content of the compound represented by the general formula (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9) and (IIC-10) being from 10 to 40% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9) and (IIC-10) being from 45 to 70% by mass,

the total content of at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 to 80% by mass, and

a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 to 65% by mass,

wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3, a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature ( $T_{N\text{-}I}$ ) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and

a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less:

$$(IA) \qquad R^1 - \bigcirc \qquad F \qquad F \qquad \qquad (IB) \qquad R^3 - \bigcirc \qquad CR^4$$

(IIA) 
$$R^5$$
  $Z^3$   $Z^4$   $F$   $F$   $F$  (IIC)  $R^9$   $Z^7$   $A$   $Z^8$   $OR^{10}$   $OR^{11}$  (IIB)  $R^7$   $Z^5$   $Z^5$   $Z^6$   $OR^8$  (IID)  $R^{11}$   $Z^9$   $R^{12}$ 

(III) 
$$R^{13}$$
  $\longrightarrow$   $E^{10}$   $\longrightarrow$   $E^{10}$   $\longrightarrow$   $E^{14}$   $\longrightarrow$   $E^{14}$ 

$$(IA-1) \qquad R^1 \longrightarrow F \qquad F \qquad (IA-3) \qquad R^1 \longrightarrow F \qquad F \qquad F \qquad R^{15}$$

(IIA-5) 
$$R^5 \longrightarrow F$$
  $F$   $R^{15}$  (IIB-1)  $R^7 \longrightarrow R^{15}$ 

(IIC-9) 
$$R^9 \longrightarrow R^{15}$$
 (IIC-10)  $R^9 \longrightarrow R^{15}$ 

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyloxy group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

 $Z^1$  to  $Z^6$  and  $Z^9$  to  $Z^{11}$  each independently represents a single bond, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CH-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH-, -C=C-, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>-, -CF<sub>2</sub>O-, -COO-, or -OCO-;

 $Z^7$  and  $Z^8$  each independently represents a single bond, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CH-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH-, -C=C-, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-, or -OCH<sub>2</sub>-; 1 and m represents 0 or 1;

A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and

B, C and D each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, or a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group<del>, and</del>

wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^3$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O, CO or COO, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and  $R^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A nematic liquid crystal composition comprising at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 25 to 60% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIB-1), (IIB-3) and (IIB-5), being from 35 to 65% by mass, the total content of at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IIB-3), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 to 80% by mass, and a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 35 to 65% by mass, wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3, a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T<sub>N-I</sub>) is within a range from 80 to 120, and a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less:

(IA) 
$$R^1 \longrightarrow Z^1 \longrightarrow F$$
  $F$   $GR^2$  (IB)  $R^3 \longrightarrow Z^2 \longrightarrow F$   $GR^4$ 

(IIA) 
$$R^5$$
  $Z^3$   $Z^4$   $Z^6$   $Q^8$   $Q^8$ 

(III) 
$$R^{13}$$
  $R^{10}$   $C$   $Z^{11}$   $D$   $R^{14}$ 

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyloxy group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly;

 $R^2$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^8$  and  $R^{10}$  each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more  $CH_2$  groups,

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which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

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 $Z^1$  to  $Z^6$  and  $Z^9$  to  $Z^{11}$  each independently represents a single bond,  $-CH_2CH_2$ -, -CH=CH-,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2$ -, -

wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^3$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O, -CO or -COO, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A nematic liquid crystal composition comprising at least one compound

selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 10 20 to 70% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds selected from the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3) and (IIB-5), being from 20 to 60% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 30 to 60% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 70 to 80% by mass, and a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 to 65% by mass, wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3, a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature ( $T_{N-I}$ ) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less:

(IIA) 
$$R^5$$
  $Z^3$   $Z^4$   $F$   $F$  (IIC)  $R^9$   $Z^7$   $A$   $Z^8$   $OR^{11}$   $OR^{12}$  (IIB)  $R^7$   $Z^5$   $Z^5$   $Z^6$   $OR^8$  (IID)  $R^{11}$   $Z^9$   $R^{12}$ 

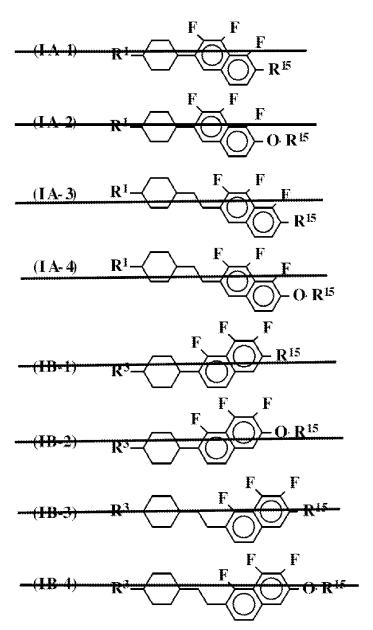
(III) 
$$R^{13}$$
  $R^{13}$   $R^{14}$   $R^{14}$   $R^{14}$ 

$$(IIC-9) \qquad R^9 - \bigcirc - \bigcirc - \bigcirc - \bigcirc - R^{15} \quad (IIC-10) \qquad R^9 - \bigcirc - \bigcirc - \bigcirc - R^{15}$$

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

 $Z^1$  to  $Z^6$  and  $Z^9$  to  $Z^{11}$  each independently represents a single bond,  $-CH_2CH_2$ -, -CH=CH-,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2$ -, -



wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^3$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -0, -CO or -COO, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

 $R^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the

general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):

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wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

 ${
m R}^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

(IB-4)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

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wherein  $R^5$  and  $R^7$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl

group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and

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 ${
m R}^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):

wherein  $R^9$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are represent in said alkyl group, said

alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO-, or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 7 (**Currently Amended**): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):

wherein R<sup>11</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, the substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):

wherein  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl

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group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group.

## Claim 9-11: (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 4, wherein the dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -6,

the nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature ( $T_{N-I}$ ) is within a range from 80 to 120°C,

the refractive index anisotropy is within a range from 0.07 to 0.15, and the viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display device for active matrix display, using the nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display device for VA mode, IPS mode or ECB mode, using the nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

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R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

 ${
m R}^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and

 ${
m R}^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

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wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy

group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1-propenyl group, or a 3 butenyl group, and

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R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):

wherein R<sup>9</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are represent in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO-,

or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):

(IID-1) 
$$R^{11}$$
  $OR^{15}$  (IID-2)  $R^{11}$   $OR^{15}$   $F$   $F$   $F$   $OR^{15}$  (IID-3)  $R^{11}$ 

wherein R<sup>11</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, the substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):

wherein  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl

group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group.

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Claim 22 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):

$$(HC-4) \qquad R^9 \longrightarrow F \qquad F \\ (HC-2) \qquad R^9 \longrightarrow O \ R^{15}$$

$$(HC-4) \qquad R^9 \longrightarrow O \ R^{15}$$

$$(HC-4) \qquad R^9 \longrightarrow O \ R^{15}$$

$$(HC-6) \qquad R^9 \longrightarrow O \ R^{15}$$

$$(HC-6) \qquad R^9 \longrightarrow O \ R^{15}$$

wherein  $R^9$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are represent in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO-, or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and  $R^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 23 (**New**): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):

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(IID-1) 
$$R^{11}$$
  $OR^{15}$  (IID-2)  $R^{11}$   $OR^{15}$   $OR^{15}$   $OR^{15}$ 

wherein R<sup>11</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 24 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):

wherein  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl

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group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms.

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